Communal riots in Assam

1793. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representation made by the State Government of Assam regarding communal riots that took place for two times within the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) area and its adjacent in Assam since April, 2008;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistani flag has been hoisted at Kolaigaon in Darrang District of Assam;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of action being taken up by both the Central and the State Government in this regard considering the involvement of terrorist organization behind the episode as published in daily newspapers in Assam as well as National TV News Channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) No specific representation has been received from the State Government of Assam in respect of communal violence in the State. According to information made available by State Government, communal violence took place in Udalguri district during 14-20 August, 2008 resulting in killings of 6 persons. Fresh violence occurred between 3-5 October, 2008 in Udalguri and Darrang districts 57 persons including 25 in Police action lost their lives. Around 42,000 persons in these two districts are presently staying in the relief camps set up by the State Government.

(b) and (c) Government is aware of allegations in this regard. However, there are no confirmed reports in the matter.

(d) As soon as information about violence was received, Central Government had got in touch with State Government and other concerned authorities. Arrangements were made for deployment of Army and Central Paramilitary Forces to assist the State Government in stopping the violence and restoration of peace in the affected areas. Additional 14 Coys of Central para-military forces (CPMFs) were also provided to assist the State Government in containing the violence.

The State Government has been advised to make necessary security arrangements, including intensive patrolling in the affected and vulnerable areas, and to take strict action against the elements involved in the violence. State Government has also been requested to mobilize civil society organizations and leaders/peace committee of both communities to calm down the situation and create an atmosphere of security and confidence. All these measures have helped to contain the violence and prevent escalation. A close watch on the situation continues to be maintained. The State Government has informed that 9 cases were registered in connection with the clashes in August, 2008 in which 18 persons were arrested. 95 cases were

registered in connection with the violent incidents in October, 2008 and 99 persons have been arrested. Investigations into the cases are underway. State Government has also requested for inquiry by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in respect of the cases pertaining to the incidents in October, 2008. The Central Government has requested State Government to give full details of the cases filed in this regard.

Utilisation report on CRF from Assam

1794. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam has not yet submitted the utilization report on Central Relief Fund received till 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of amount allocated and released to the Government of Assam considering the urgency to provide various relief and rehabilitation to the flood and erosion affected families in Assam for 2008; and

(d) if not, the year-wise details of amount allocated and utilization made so far in different heads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RADHIKA V. SELVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Doss not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the Scheme of financing the assistance for relief expenditure, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of identified natural disasters which include flood. The events of erosion are not covered under the Identified natural disasters. Distribution of relief on ground is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support, where necessary. For this purpose a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State, which is contributed by the Government of India and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1.

The State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State is fully authorized under the Scheme of CRF to operate the Fund as per the items and norms of assistance approved by the Government of India. In the event of a calamity of a severe nature, in which the requirement of funds for relief operations is beyond the funds available in the States CRF account, additional Central assistance is also considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure.

Details of allocation and release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and additional funds released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are as under:—